A timeline of AI at Stanford

John McCarthy was a young Dartmouth professor in 1955 when he and three other authors wrote the research proposal that coined the term “Artificial Intelligence.” He joined the Stanford faculty in 1962, establishing a tradition of innovation in the field of AI that continues to produce breakthroughs today. Below is a timeline of Stanford’s contributions and milestones in AI and robotics:

- **1965**: Computer Science department is founded. McCarthy becomes head of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab (SAIL), a post he will hold until 1980.
- **1967**: A team of Stanford researchers led by Ed Feigenbaum develops the “Dendral” program, which can interpret mass spectra of organic compounds.
- **1969**: Victor Scheinman, a mechanical engineering student at SAIL, creates the Stanford Arm, a robotic arm that can be programmed to assemble parts.
- **1971**: McCarthy wins the prestigious Turing Award from the Association for Computing Machinery.
- **1973**: While a visiting scholar at SAIL, Harold Cohen begins developing AARON, a robot that can draw and paint pictures.
- **1974**: In his PhD dissertation, Ted Shortliffe demonstrates a rule-based system for knowledge and inference with regard to medical diagnosis and therapy. This is sometimes called the first “expert system.”
- **1979**: The Stanford Cart, under the tutelage of Hans Moravec, maneuvers across a chair-filled room without any human help.
- **1980**: Stanford hosts the first American Association of Artificial Intelligence conference.
- **1985**: Nils Nilsson joins the Stanford computer science faculty.
- **1985-1988**: Students under Professor Tom Bindford develop Mobi, a robot that navigates with video and ultrasound.
- **1990**: McCarthy wins the National Medal of Science.
- **1991**: SAIL moves from a nearby off-campus location to the main campus.
- **1995**: Ed Feigenbaum wins the Turing Award
- **1998**: Professor Kenneth Salisbury shares in patent for robot assisted, minimally invasive surgery.
- **2004**: Associate Professor Sebastian Thrun becomes head of SAIL
- **2004**: Associate Professor Daphne Koller, a SAIL member, is named a MacArthur Fellow.
- **2005**: Stanford enters an autonomous robotic car named Stanley in the DARPA Grand Challenge.

In addition to Stanford sources, two vital references for this document are: